

**City of Fort Lauderdale
Utility Advisory Committee
Tuesday, April 26 – 6:30 p.m.
100 North Andrews Ave., 8th Floor Conference Room
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 33301**

<u>Committee Members</u>	<u>Present/ Absent</u>	<u>Attended (1/05 to 12/05)</u>	<u>Missed</u>
Bunney Brenneman, Chair	P	4	0
Richard Barrett	P	3	1
David Benjamin	A	3	1
Christine Campbell, Vice Chair	P	3	1
L. Thomas Chancey	P	3	1
Bob Cole	P	3	1
Margaret Haynie Birch	A	3	1
Bernie Petreccia	P	4	0
Claire Vickery	A	3	1
Nathaniel Wilkerson	A	2	2
Andy Ziffer	A	2	2

City Representatives

Stephen Scott, Assistant City Manager
Alfred Battle, CRA Director
Peter Partington, Staff Liaison
Jamie Oppерlee, Recording Secretary

Guests

Debbie Orshefsky
Lynn Shatas, FPL

I. Call to Order

Chair Bunney Brenneman called the meeting to order at 6: 35 P.M.

II. Roll Call

Ms. Opperee then took roll call.

III. Self Introductions

Board members, city representatives, and guests introduced themselves in turn.

IV. Announcements

Chair Brenneman announced that Dr. Benjamin had moved to Ohio in order to care for his ailing father. Dr. Benjamin had informed her that he would try to attend the May UAC meeting.

Mr. Stephen Scott, Assistant City Manager, thanked and congratulated the UAC for their efforts to organize the Energy Roundtable in March. He had received much positive feedback on the event and noted that the only negative feedback was that the event should have been longer. He felt that this event was an excellent use of the Board's resources and a great example of their performing an important service to the citizens of Fort Lauderdale.

Ms. Brenneman announced that she had attended the meeting of the District I Alliance of Homeowner Associations at the invitation of their Executive Secretary, Pat Hale. Chair Brenneman had informed them that Mr. Chancey would gladly attend one of their meetings to discuss trimming their own trees. She advised the homeowners to contact FPL if they intended to be responsible for their own trees. Ms. Campbell insisted, and Ms. Shatas agreed, that some cooperation must take place between homeowners and FPL to coordinate safe trimming of trees.

V. Approval of Minutes

November 23, 2004 Meeting

Mr. Chancey apologized for the hearsay remarks he had been unable to confirm that he had repeated at the November meeting regarding the town of Miramar's refusal to allow Asplundh to trim trees in their town.

***Motion** made by Mr. Barrett, seconded by Ms. Campbell, to approve the minutes of the November 23, 2004 meeting as amended. In a voice vote the motion passed unanimously.*

February 22, 2005 Meeting

***Motion** made by Mr. Petreccia, seconded by Mr. Cole, to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2005 meeting. In a voice vote the motion passed unanimously.*

March 22, 2005 Roundtable

***Motion** made by Mr. Barrett, seconded by Mr. Cole, to approve the minutes of the March 22, 2005 Roundtable. In a voice vote the motion passed unanimously.*

VI. Old Business

Energy Roundtable Feedback & Recap

Chair Brenneman had spoken with Dr. Benjamin, who said he was very pleased that there was interest in a second roundtable. He intended to forward written comments to Chair Brenneman to share with the UAC.

Chair Brenneman had received email from both Rand Eckhart and Colleen Kettles, FSEF Director and energy attorney, who offered to attend a UAC meeting in the future. Mr. Barrett wanted Ms. Kettles's input regarding incentives for builders in the downtown area to utilize currently available conservation measures.

Mr. Barrett asked Mr. Partington if there was a City employee whose job it was to find measures the City could use to save energy and money, especially regarding public lighting. Mr. Partington stated that Tom Tyrell, the City's Facilities Manager, had this responsibility. Ms. Shatas noted that FPL was soon to perform an energy audit in the City. Ms. Shatas and Mr. Partington pointed out that as a rule, there was an increasing call for more, and more powerful lighting for the City because residents felt this increased safety.

Mr. Chancey suggested they contact a participant from the roundtable and ask for information about the most current energy-conserving lighting and then provide that information to the City. Chair Brenneman agreed to get information for the UAC from a roundtable participant(s) and use that information to make a recommendation to the City Commission.

Mr. Petreccia felt the City should have an employee who was responsible for seeking ways the City could conserve energy and encouraging builders to do the same. Mr. Partington felt they may be more successful in suggesting conservation measures for use in new buildings. Using the new fire stations project as an example, Mr. Partington explained that unfortunately, the committee that would approved the plans was focused on bringing the project in on time and under budget; it was not focused on making the buildings the most energy-efficient.

Mr. Partington confirmed for Mr. Chancey that City architects and outside consultants worked on the designs of the firehouses. Mr. Chancey felt the City could direct the designers to research

energy conservation methods to incorporate this into the design. Mr. Partington reiterated that the Committee's prime directive was to get the buildings constructed at the lowest cost. Any life cycle analysis would probably not be foresighted enough to convince the City that the costs eventually saved by conservation would make it worth the higher initial investment. Mr. Chancey was adamant about trying to get the City to consider spending a little extra up front to save energy and costs in the long run. Mr. Petreccia agreed that they needed to look farther into the future and make a commitment to do what they could to conserve energy in the long term.

Update on Line Clearing

**Lynn Shatas,
External Affairs Manager, FPL**

Ms. Shatas noted that the Comcast project was complete. FPL was continuing with the clearance project at the Oakland Park substation; this should be finished in June.

Ms. Shatas had attended the Harbor Inlet Homeowners Association meeting to address their concerns over frequent outages and tree interference. The problem line originated at the Orchid substation and served the beach area. FPL intended to begin clearing this line next week; letters had already been mailed to area residents and Commissioner Hutchison had been notified.

FPL hoped to get to the task of trimming the Sistrunk substation in the third quarter of 2005; Ms. Shatas said she would update the UAC each month on this item.

Other Old business

VII. New Business

Proposed Sistrunk Substation Landscaping Design and Post Office Site

**Alfred Battle,
CRA Director**

Chair Brenneman introduced Mr. Alfred Battle, CRA Director. The Board then discussed the current landscape design for the substation. On Northwest 6th Avenue, a change in the paver installation had been made to accommodate trees alternated with the pavers. Mr. Chancey suggested replacing the buttonwoods under the power lines with sabal palms. Mr. Cole was concerned that the trees were planted only 12" from the curb and wondered if the City would approve this. Mr. Partington said he would consult the downtown master plan. Mr. Barrett suggested moving the sidewalks back and leaving a 3' green space next to the curb in which to plant the trees.

On Northwest 5th Street, Chair Brenneman explained that the property was owned by the City and leased by the Post Office. Chair Brenneman noted that installing this landscaping 5' from the existing sidewalk would increase the setback for any future building on the property. Mr. Barrett felt that this type of landscape plan would accomplish what they were seeking on Northwest 6th Avenue. Mr. Partington was not sure what the setbacks were on this property, but asked if this plan would still be considered if the setbacks were 0' and the trees might have to be removed later

on. Mr. Barrett thought this site was slated for use as a market. Mr. Battle confirmed this and noted that for any future use, the CRA would ask that the design be consistent with the downtown master plan, which might mean a 0' setback.

Chair Brenneman referred to Mr. Stresau's letter in which he stated that he had been unable to convince FPL to use the sabal palms and had substituted the silver buttonwoods. Other than that, the current plan incorporated all elements the committee had reviewed before.

Chair Brenneman noted that Ms. Vickery had suggested inviting Mr. Battle to look at these plans and offer input. Mr. Battle stated that the CRA was open to facilitating the project in whatever way possible. He agreed to communicate with the UAC through Ms. Vickery and keep them informed of developments for the vacant property in the plan.

Motion made by Ms. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Petreccia, to approve the current landscape plan in concept and send it through Mr. Partington and Mr. Battle to City staff for further review and input. In a voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Partington stated that after staff review and input, the plan would come back to the UAC and they would then present the plan to the City Commission for approval. Mr. Chancey wanted City staff input to include who would be responsible for maintenance of the landscaping.

Review & Discussion of Sun-Sentinel Business Article

Lynn Shatas

Chair Brenneman announced that Mr. Ziffer could not be present because he was attending a class. He had emailed a copy of a Sun Sentinel article about FPL's surcharge to recover last summer's hurricane costs. Mr. Petreccia asked if the \$450 million FPL wanted to recover included any profit. Ms. Shatas explained that the surcharge was to recover the storm costs and the rate increase was for the rate base, to provide funds to build new power plants. She did not believe there was any profit built into these figures. She pointed out that it was not possible to get insurance for storm costs. Ms. Campbell and Chair Brenneman felt that if they wanted to understand this issue, they should invite the PSC to attend a meeting. Mr. Chancey felt that this issue would receive enough scrutiny and information would be readily available to the public; therefore they needn't spend their time and effort researching it themselves. Mr. Cole agreed, stating that this was a statewide issue.

Other New Business

Mr. Barrett referred to an article in the Broward Herald regarding high-speed Internet connections in Broward cities. He asked Mr. Partington if Fort Lauderdale was sufficiently prepared to offer these services to new businesses. Mr. Partington said he had not heard of any business deterred from coming into Fort Lauderdale due to a lack of high-speed Internet access. Companies had tried to get the City involved in wireless Internet, but so far, the City saw no pressing business advantage to be gained from this.

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VIII. Good of the Committee

IX. Next Meeting

May 24, 2005, 100 North Andrews Ave., 8th floor conference room.

X. Adjourn

Thereupon, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.